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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Meeting of the Tick-Borne Disease Working Group

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the third meeting of the Tick-Borne Disease Working Group (Working Group) on February 12, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. For this third meeting, the Working Group will focus on mapping out the work of the six Subcommittee Meeting Working Groups that were established on December 12, 2017. These subcommittees were established to assist the Working Group with the development of the report to Congress and the HHS Secretary as required by the 21st Century Cures Act. The subcommittees are:

1. Disease Vectors, Surveillance and Prevention (includes epidemiology of tick-borne diseases);
2. Pathogenesis, Transmission, and Treatment;
3. Testing and Diagnostics (including laboratory-based diagnoses and clinical-diagnoses);
4. Access to Care Services and Support to Patients;

5. Vaccine and Therapeutics; and
6. Other Tick-Borne Diseases and Co-infections.

DATES: February 12, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: This will be a virtual meeting that is held via webcast. Members of the public may attend the meeting via webcast and instructions for attending this virtual meeting will be posted one week prior to the meeting at: <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/advisory-committees/tickbornedisease/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Berger, Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services; via email at tickbornedisease@hhs.gov or by phone at 202-795-7697.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this meeting, the Working Group will also hear about one or more examples of other efforts that have been successfully undertaken to define a national or statewide approach to preventing, monitoring, diagnosing, and treating people with tick-borne diseases. In addition, federal resources, within and outside of HHS, that may be of use to the subcommittees as they do their work, such as the Department of Health and Human Services Internal Working Group on Lyme and Other Tick-Borne Diseases, will be presented.

The Working Group invites public comment on issues related to the Working Group's charge. Comments may be provided over the phone during the meeting or in writing. Persons who wish

to provide comments by phone should review directions at <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/advisory-committees/tickbornedisease/meetings/index.html> before submitting a request via email at tickbornedisease@hhs.gov on or before February 7, 2018. Phone comments will be limited to three minutes each to accommodate as many speakers as possible. A total of 30 minutes will be allocated to public comments. If more requests are received than can be accommodated, speakers will be randomly selected. The nature of the comments will not be considered in making this selection. Public comments may also be provided in writing. Individuals who would like to provide written comment should review directions at <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/advisory-committees/tickbornedisease/meetings/index.html> before sending their comments to tickbornedisease@hhs.gov on or before February 7, 2018.

Background and Authority: The Tick-Borne Disease Working Group was established on August 10, 2017, in accordance with section 2062 of the *21st Century Cures Act*, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, to provide expertise and review all HHS efforts related to tick-borne diseases to help ensure interagency coordination and minimize overlap, examine research priorities, and identify and address unmet needs. In addition, the Working Group will report to the Secretary and Congress on their findings and any recommendations for the federal response to tick-borne disease prevention, treatment and research, and addressing gaps in those areas.

Dated: January 17, 2018.

James Berger,

Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy,

Alternate Designated Federal Officer, Tick-Borne Disease Working Group.

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